(b) whether in many places the practice of selling usable items at scrap rates and even new items purchased by the Railways are being sold as scrap; and

(c) if the answer to parts (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative, what steps are being taken by Government to make the system fool-proof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Extension of Rail Line in Kumarghat-Agartala sector

765. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work on extension of rail line in Tripura in Kumarghat-Agartala sector, particularly of tunnels is proceeding as per schedule;

(b) whether sufficient budgetary provision has been made so that the work is not delayed;

(c) whether sanction has been accorded for further extension of the rail line from Agartala to Sabroom; and

(d) whether there is a proposal to convert the meter-gauge lines between Lumding and Kumarghat into broad guage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) Work of Kumarghat-Agartala project is progressing as per availability of resources. The Geo-Technical investigations for tunnels have been taken up.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) No, Sir. However, Gauge conversion between Badarpur to Baraigram has been decided to be done as a material modification to the work of gauge conversion of Lumding-Silchar. Survey for gauge conversion from Baraigram

to Kumarghat has been completed. The proposal would be considered further once gauge conversion of Lumding-Badarpur is nearing completion, depending on operational requirements and availability of resources.

Unsafe Railway Bridges in Kerala

766. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI V. V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the past five years at least twenty eight railway bridges in Kerala have been identified as unsafe for rail traffic; and

(b) if so, the details of these bridges and steps being taken for their replacement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Raview of Tatkal Services

767. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Tatkal Services are effective; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to keep the system transparent to help genuine needy passengers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) The Tatkal Scheme is patronised. In order to ensure that the accommodation earmarked in Tatkal coach is availed by the bonafide and genuine passengers, railways have taken a number of precautions and safeguards which are as under:—

(i) Reservation under this scheme starts at 8.00 A.M. on the day prior to the day of the journey.

(ii) Reservation under this scheme can be made only on the authority of one of the proofs of identity mentioned in this scheme. The serial number of proof of identity is indicated on the ticket.